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BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON



A NURSE'S HANDBOOK OF OBSTETRICS. For use in Training-Schools. By Joseph B. Cooke, M.D., Fellow of the New York Obstetrical Society, Lecturer to the New York City Training-School, Surgeon to the New York Maternity Hospital, etc. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.

The limitation implied by the title of this book is to be entirely disregarded, for however essential the work may be to nurses in training, it is absolutely indispensable to nurses whose graduation day dates back a bit, but who are anxious to escape being classed as "old nurses." The book, which only emerged from its first existence in the form of lectures to the New York City Training-School for Nurses last March, has, we are informed, gone into its second edition, the first edition having already been entirely exhausted.

For careful, minute, detailed teaching we have had nothing like it on the subject heretofore, and it ought to have a place on every nurse's bookshelf, and go with the obstetrical nurse to her every case.

"It is intended to contain all of the science and art of obstetrics that a nurse need know in order to practise her profession in an intelligent manner consistent with her position as a scientifically educated woman, combined with a clear exposition of the principles and practice of maternity nursing."

The first six chapters comprise a very thorough review of the particular and functional anatomy and physiology necessary to the subject, with the development of the fœtus, etc.; then come in order the signs and symptoms, disorders and management, of pregnancy; this chapter (IX.) is particularly valuable as "preventive medicine," the practice of which the author in his introduction so strongly recommends to nurses. The directions for proper diet elimination, etc., are most practical and helpful. Chapters X. and XI., the nurse's outfit and patient's ditto, are the most complete lists of their kind that one could imagine, including sizes of pins and quality of muslin; not the smallest detail is missing. The tired nurse who at an instant's notice has to collect her outfit will hail these lists with joy. Chapters XII. to XV. treat of the "Mechanism," "Phenomena," "Preparation," and "Conduct of Labor," covering all about normal labor. Chapters XV. and XVI. take up "Operative Delivery" and "Accidents and Emergencies." Chapter XVIII. brings us into the purely nursing field again, which continues to the end of the book, the physiology and management of the puerperium, care of instruments, catheterization, diet, incidental disorders, the care of the normal infant, the care of the feeble or premature infant, winding up with a splendid chapter on infant feeding. The book is enlightened by over three hundred illustrations, and it has appended a glossary of over fifty pages in itself of considerable value. The book costs only two dollars.